



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN FIGHTS FOR AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS

Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, has authored legislation to give victims of the defoliant, Agent Orange, full Veteran's Administration health benefits. Currently the VA refuses to treat illnesses veteran's claim resulted from their exposure to this dangerous chemical during the war in Viet Nam.

Waxman said,

"It is impossible to exaggerate the health hazards suffered by those exposed to Agent Orange. The toxic chemical has been linked to a range of illnesses from birth defects to cancer. My bill would automatically designate sicknesses caused by Agent Orange exposure while in the military as service-related diseases."

Under the Waxman Agent Orange bill, the Veterans Administration would have to prove that an illness was not caused by wartime exposure to Agent Orange, the veteran would not have to prove that it was. Currently, the VA has denied the validity of all the scientific evidence which links Agent Orange to as many as 40 diseases. When a veteran presents evidence that he was exposed to Agent Orange, this information is ignored. Waxman's bill will give top priority to Agent Orange exposure in judging the validity of the ex-servicemen's claims.

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